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George J Klir

COMPREHENSIVE INDEX
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International Journal of GENERAL SYSTEMS

A Comprehensive Periodical devoted to General Systems Methodology, Applications and Education

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Aims and Scope

The *International Journal of General Systems* is an interdisciplinary periodical devoted primarily to the publication of original research and educational contributions relevant to general systems. Tutorial and survey articles, reviews, bibliographies, short notes and letters, and a calendar of forthcoming activities related to general systems will be included. Basic areas covered by the journal are: Foundations of general systems theory and methodology, applications of the methodology in various branches of science, technology, humanities, and the arts, general systems philosophy, and general systems education. Examples of topics within these areas are: Principles of modeling and simulation, systems analysis and synthesis, optimization, identification, general principles of experimentation, problems associated with extremely complex systems, studies concerned with various classes of systems such as self-organizing, adaptive, self-producing, fuzzy, hierarchical, etc. In order to cover the diverse activities in general systems research and education throughout the world, an editorial board with international representation has been selected. Three major criteria determine the selection of submitted articles: originality (except for invited tutorial articles), high professional quality, and direct relevance to general systems research or education.

Notes for contributors and editorial addresses are provided at the back of the journal.
Books for review should be sent direct to the editor, and not to the publishers.

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A GUIDE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INDEX

It has become increasingly evident, over the past year, that a mechanism should be developed by which a researcher could easily access any of the multitude of articles which have been published in this journal since 1974. While a short index is published at the end of each volume, one might have to traverse through most of them before finding a specific article. Also, if one were interested in identifying all the articles which focused upon a particular field or area of study, the task would indeed be formidable. Hence, George Klir, the editor, and I began the task of sorting through all the issues of the journal and compiling this index; I confess that it has been anything but trivial. While we compiled the data for the manuscripts, we also recognized that the book reviews which have been published would also be of considerable benefit if access to them could be facilitated.

This comprehensive index for the first 20 volumes of the journal is thus divided into two distinct parts: the first part is a listing of the manuscripts, and the second part is a listing of the book reviews.

The first part, called the ***manuscript lexicon***, is bipartite and consists of a listing of the papers both by author and by keyword; an explanation is required. Each article is listed under its author's name in order by the year in which the article was published. In cases where multiple articles were published in the same year, each is arranged in volume/page order so that the researcher will always be in immediate possession of the temporal order and corresponding "interest" order of the author. In the case in which multiple authors exist, each author's name is listed but, in order to prevent an inaccurate reference from being generated by mixing the order of authors, a cross-listing maps all authors to the first author's name. Thus, if one cannot remember the order in which the authors' names appear in the article, one need only to look up any author and, with the cross-index listing, one should be able to locate the article in question with minimal effort. The full article reference is listed only under the first author's name.

The listing by keyword was an agonizing experience in which George and I debated and discussed for long periods into what categories to place each article. At first, we considered using the key terms listed below each abstract, but it immediately became evident that such a listing would not be practical for this index. Finally, we devised a comprehensive, yet general, listing of keywords into which we could place each manuscript; be advised that each manuscript is listed under at least two keywords. In our judgement this partial ordering of articles presents an effective way by which classes of manuscripts can be easily identified.

The second part, called the ***book review lexicon***, is in tripartite order by author name, reviewer name, and by subject. The order by subject was deliberately restricted to a **single** subject and thus, a debatable judgement call was made in many instances. Books which transcend more than one subject area were placed into the category which seemed to dominate the others. Also, we distinguished between book **r**eviews and book **a**bstracts, by placing an "R" or "A" before its name. The book reviews are longer, more descriptive, and, possibly, somewhat controversial in content; the book abstracts are shorter and purely descriptive.

Finally, this index has been given bar "tabs" to assist in the location of the separate sections.

Suggestions for improvements in future comprehensive indices will be appreciated and should be directed to me.

William J. Tastle
Managing Editor

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Approximate reasoning
Reasoning, nonmonotonic; SEE
Nonmonotonic reasoning
Recognition, pattern; SEE
Pattern recognition
Recognition, speech; SEE
Speech recognition
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Conflict resolution

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Systems science

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Biological sciences

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Set theory, alternative; SEE
Alternative set theory

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